

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Robert Eugene Ferguson upon being named the Westmoreland Citizen of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Robert Eugene "Gene" Ferguson, who was recently named the Westmoreland Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ferguson is an astute and dedicated community leader who has earned the respect of his peers and the citizens he serves for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a native of West Virginia, Gene Ferguson graduated from Spanishburg High School before attending Concord College, which is now Concord University; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from college in 1968, he began teaching summer school at Pocahontas High School in Virginia, where he served with acumen and alacrity for eleven years, teaching everything from mathematics to physical education and serving as an assistant football coach; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Pocahontas High School, Gene Ferguson also served as a referee for women's college basketball in West Virginia and Virginia and, in the summer break, he taught driver's education; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Gene Ferguson was hired to teach mathematics at Hendersonville High School, where he taught for six years, during which time he pursued a master's degree at Tennessee State University, served as a referee for church softball and baseball leagues, served on his church board, and was the manager of the Maples Swim Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ferguson accepted the position of vice principle of Westmoreland High School in 1985 and, for the past twenty-six years, has committed himself to performing his duties with excellence and unwavering dedication, qualities he also brought to the role of Westmorelands' athletic director; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Gene Ferguson is an active and devout member of Roberts Tabernacle Church; and

WHEREAS, he has served as an amateur radio operator for many years and enjoys guns and cats; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ferguson is also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is most proud of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Brenda, and he is the proud father of three daughters; and

WHEREAS, the greater Westmoreland community and the State of Tennessee are undoubtedly better places to live because of the life and service of Gene Ferguson; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. Ferguson who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Gene Ferguson for his many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to others, and his astute leadership in Westmoreland; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Robert Eugene Ferguson upon being named the Westmoreland Citizen of the Year, commend his outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.